

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 2, as follows.

FIG. 1 illustrates the network environment in which the present invention can operate. As shown in FIG. 1, a sender employing a sender device 110 leaves a voice mail message over a network 120 for one or more intended recipients, each employing a corresponding recipient device ~~130-1 through 130-N~~ ~~200-1 through 200-N~~, discussed below in conjunction with FIG. 2. The voice mail message is typically delivered to a "mailbox" of a voice mail server 130 associated with a corresponding recipient. The recipient must generally log into the voice mail server 130 to access the voice mail messages, in a known manner. The network(s) 120 may be any combination of wired or wireless networks, such as the Internet and the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN). The voice mail server 130 typically serves a community of users, such as the employees within an enterprise or the customers of a telephone Service Provider. While the present invention is described in the context of a voice mail message system, it will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art that the present invention encompasses other types of messages and is not limited to voice mail messages.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 4, as follows.

FIG. 2 is a schematic block diagram of an exemplary recipient device ~~130-1~~ ~~200~~ incorporating features of the present invention. The recipient device ~~130-1~~ ~~200~~ may be any communication device, such as a telephone, personal computer or personal digital assistant. As shown in FIG. 2, the exemplary recipient device ~~130-1~~ ~~200~~ includes a processor 215 and a memory 202, in addition to other conventional elements (not shown). The processor 215 operates in conjunction with the memory 202 to execute one or more software programs. Such programs may be stored in memory 202 or another storage device accessible to the recipient device ~~130-1~~ ~~200~~ and executed by the processor 215 in a conventional manner. For example, as discussed below in conjunction with FIG. 6, the memory 202 may store a presence enabled voice mail application process 600 that (i) retrieves a voice mail message for the recipient associated with the device ~~130-1~~ ~~200~~ from the voice mail server 130, (ii) queries a presence server 300, discussed below in

conjunction with FIG. 3, to determine the presence of the sender of the retrieved voice mail message, and (iii) presents the voice mail message to the recipient with an indication of the presence of the sender. A suitable user interface that may be employed by the presence enabled voice mail application process 600 to present retrieved voice mail messages, together with an indication of the presence of the sender, is discussed below in conjunction with FIG. 7.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 17, as follows.

As shown in FIG. 6, user 2 initially leaves a voice mail message for one or more indicated recipients (including user 1) during step 610. Thereafter, the voice mail client of user 1 fetches the voice mail message from user 1's voice mailbox on the voice mail server 130 during step 620. The voice mail client also queries the presence server 300 to determine the presence of the sender (user 2) of the retrieved voice mail message during step 630. The presence server 300 responds with the presence information during step 640. Finally, the retrieved voice mail message is presented to the recipient (user 1), for example, in an "in-box," with an indication of the presence of the sender during step 650.